

Top Secret



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3 May 1971

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

CAMBODIA: No breakthrough in organizing a government. (Page 1)

25X1

25X1

25X1

CAMBODIA: There are still no signs of any breakthrough in the effort to organize a government.

Chief of State Cheng Heng's current nominee for the prime ministership, National Assembly President In Tam, told the press in Phnom Penh on 2 May that he has not yet decided whether he would accept Heng's offer. Tam has indicated, however, that if he does try to form a cabinet it will consist of young technicians. He has also said that he would make Son Ngoc Thanh his deputy prime minister, apparently in recognition of the latter's popularity.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Some political odds-makers in the capital, however, believe that even if he does attempt to form a cabinet he will be unsuccessful. If and when Tam is eliminated, Heng is likely to turn to Thanh. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Heng must run through the other candidates in order to show that an honest attempt has been made to find someone acceptable to all political factions. Thanh apparently believes that this process would serve to promote his chances.

25X1

3 May 71

Central Intelligence Bulletin

1

25X1

Next 5 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Top Secret



Top Secret